

## The Sun

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## The Master of the Bosses.

The Universal Boss has spoken and Governor HUGHES will be renominated. The bosskins and bosslets have had to take their medicine. They are justified in making faces. HUGHES is not their kind of man. No doubt some of these mean to "knife" him in the fall. But what else was to be done? Once in a while the people have to be "placated." The politicians have to let them have their way. HUGHES had to be nominated to save TAFT. HUGHES will help TAFT in every State and not merely in New York. So with a sigh the Universal Boss accepts him.

Let there be no mistake about the attitude of the Governor and the Universal Boss. The latter takes HUGHES because he has to. The Governor is alien to him in temperament and methods. By the simple means of pegging away in the path of his duty, without postures or advertising, making enemies as cheerfully as public men of an opposite type make friends, Governor HUGHES has impressed the imagination and now the respect of the community, and he has now imposed himself, without terms, upon the Universal Boss.

Whatever "magnetic" qualities Governor HUGHES may lack, he has a strength which the most sensational and the most successful of American politicians has had to admit and now means to use for national Republican purposes.

The bosses and the Boss have had to stomach HUGHES. They need him in their business. In spite of all the hullabaloo of his opponents perhaps the people of New York feel that they still need him in theirs.

At any rate Mr. TAFT is a fortunate man.

## Bryan on the Tariff.

In his tariff speech at Des Moines yesterday Mr. BRYAN pointed out and discussed that astonishing declaration of the Republican platform to which THE SUN early called the attention of amateurs of political absurdity:

"In all tariff legislation the true principle of protection is best maintained by the imposition of such duties as will equal the difference between the cost of production at home and abroad, together with a reasonable profit to American industries."

Here, for the first time in history, if memory serves us, is distinctly announced the doctrine that one of the functions of the general taxing power of the Federal Government is to collect from the taxpayers money with which to guarantee a "reasonable" profit to the manufacturer. Mr. BRYAN asks, with a fine affectation of innocent thrust for knowledge, what constitutes a "reasonable" profit, and why if it is due from the Government to those particular citizens it is not due likewise to citizens engaged in other occupations.

It would be unfair not to recognize the moderation of language, the apparent candor of tone, the directness and suavity of statement and the clearness of argument which distinguish this and other recent addresses of Mr. BRYAN from the often frenzied rhetoric of his earlier productions.

## No License in New York.

When the New York liquor law went into effect it provided for local option in the towns of the State, of which there were 681 at the time the first elections were held in 1897. In 1901 the number of towns was increased by one, and in 1903 another was added to the list. In his annual report for 1907 Mr. CLEMENT, the State Commissioner of Excise, has introduced a table showing how these towns have voted on the liquor question, a study of which must be gratifying to the opponents of the traffic. The table shows:

Year.	No. Licensed.	No. Partial Licensed.	No. Prohibited.
1897.....	247	255	219
1898.....	249	264	217
1899.....	251	263	218
1900.....	251	273	220
1901.....	249	297	204
1902.....	243	295	204
1903.....	244	264	208
1904.....	244	268	208
1905.....	230	269	201
1906.....	243	210	236
1907.....	229	208	261

Thus there are to-day eighteen fewer towns in which full licenses are granted than there were ten years ago, twenty-three fewer towns in which partial licenses are issued, and forty-three more towns in which the trade is not permitted. While, as might be expected, there have been fluctuation and frequent changes in the attitudes of the towns on this subject it is obvious that the tendency is toward restriction of the business by the voters themselves. It will be noticed that in only two of the eleven years has the number of dry towns been less than in 1897. The number of full license towns has been above the original number in only four years. Not once since the law took effect has the number of towns allowing "partial

licenses" been as great as it was after the first vote.

These figures indicate no such violent opposition to the liquor traffic as is shown in the South, but the steady decrease in the number of towns permitting the legal sale of alcoholic drinks is not without significance. The advocates of no license have more than held their own in spite of the best efforts of the liquor trade to extend the territory in which it may operate. It is evident that though a negative vote on the license question may not banish the demon it produces results generally satisfactory to the voters who try the experiment.

## Concerning Genuflection.

The subject question is addressed to THE SUN by the elder brother of the Hon. WILLIAM BARNES, JR., of Albany:

"TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: With all that wisdom supposed to adhere to your exalted function, can you inform an anxious public why it is that Mr. HUGHES should recent with ferocious support of men called 'little bosses,' and at the same time get down on his august knees to Roosevelt and Roosevelt because the latter are supposed to be big bosses?"

"The Baptist Pope does not appear to be consistent."

"NEW YORK, August 20."

We reply with pleasure that the specific acts of appeal and self-humiliation to which Mr. THURLOW WEED BARNES refers have escaped our notice. To the best of our information and belief Governor HUGHES has been doing his duty as he understands it and getting down on his knees to no human creature.

This is a senseless question, rendered more unworthy by the sneer at Governor HUGHES's religion. How much more respectable was the attitude of that hardened old political boss, the late THURLOW WEED, toward people of all Christian faiths and denominations:

"In my judgment all who lead Christian lives, however different in their modes of worship, will be mercifully dealt with by a merciful Creator through the mediation of our Saviour."

Such was the tolerant and reverent and manly creed of Mr. THURLOW WEED BARNES's grandfather. It is recorded in the biography of THURLOW WEED by his grandson, Mr. THURLOW WEED BARNES.

## The Giant Lobster of Montauk.

Every lover of natural history in these parts, from the President of the United States up, will be interested in the announcement that a gigantic ganglion decapod, scientifically known as Homarus americanus, was captured a few days ago in the Atlantic Ocean off Montauk Point. Colloquially this interesting beast may be described as a twenty-four pound lobster.

The circumstances under which he was secured are thus stated in the *Riverhead Weekly News*, a Suffolk county newspaper:

"Superior G. FRANK TWYDIA, who conducts a big fishing business at Montauk, caught a twenty-four pound lobster in one of his ocean fishing traps this week, and when he came to Riverhead Tuesday to attend the Supervisors' session he brought it along and presented it to J. M. BRANHAM, where it attracted considerable attention.

"The fish is by far the largest of its kind ever caught in this part of the world; in fact, it is believed to be the largest of its kind ever caught anywhere."

"It's the Meek of all the lobster family in the Atlantic Ocean: it is 20 years old and was caught on a hook and line," said Mr. TWYDIA, in answer to questions.

"Later he admitted that he couldn't tell its age by its teeth and that it was caught in a trap; but he is pretty generally admitted that it must have been the boss of the lobster crew and that it must be about half a century old, far previously lobsters have been caught that were known to be well past the 'chicken' stage and they didn't weigh a quarter as much as this fellow."

"From his nose to the end of his tail he was twenty inches in length. He had two main feelers that were eighteen inches long. His two big claws were ten inches long by six wide and had a spread nearly large enough to take a man's leg within."

According to the most trustworthy zoological authorities the mature American lobster is from one to two feet in length and weighs from two to fifteen pounds. It is stated in the *Encyclopedia Americana* that a weight of forty pounds has been recorded, but that even twenty-five pounds is rarely reached. The spiny lobster of Europe, which belongs to a different species, attains a weight of from fifteen to twenty pounds. This is the lobster which was so highly esteemed by the ancient Romans. Since the lobster fishery has been regulated by law in the States along the Atlantic coast the taking of lobsters which fall below a prescribed limit of length has been prohibited, but there is generally no statutory restriction having reference to the weight. In Massachusetts lobsters may not be sold which are less than ten and one-half inches in length, while in this State under the revised game law of 1908 lobsters less than nine inches in length measured from one extremity to another, exclusive of claws or feelers, shall not be taken, possessed or sold."

There is a very common impression to the effect that certain portions of the lobster are poisonous, but this notion is declared by many of the authorities to be incorrect. Sanitarians, however, very generally agree in regarding the lobster unfavorably as a food. This is due to the fact that lobsters are carnivorous in their habits and are believed to feed largely on dead and decayed fish and other creatures found in the sea. In the well known work on foods published some years ago in the *International Scientific Series* by Dr. EDWARD SMITH, an inspector of the local Government board in England, the lobster is characterized as chiefly serviceable to the physician. Dr. SMITH says:

"Lobsters and crayfish were known to and eaten by our ancestors at least 400 years ago, and in a recipe of the date of 1581 it is directed to roast the lobster in its shell in an oven or in a pan and eat it with vinegar. They rank higher in price and are certainly more delicate in flavor than crabs, but at the same time they are tougher and more difficult to masticate and digest. It may be doubted whether there are any foods which are so little desirable in a sanitary point of view or which so frequently cause indigestion, yet they are extremely popular as a change of food and a luxury and are as agreeable to the eater as useful to the doctor."

There is one form of American lobster to which these hygienic objections have no application. This consists of the white and wholesome flesh of the Mis-

issippi catfish, which is put up in large quantities as canned lobster in factories at Memphis, Tenn. It is not only harmless to the consumer but has the advantage of yielding a large profit to the producer.

Although it is very seldom that a lobster larger than this Montauk specimen is found in any part of the world, there are allied creatures belonging to the same order of crustaceans—the decapods—in the Eastern seas which attain much greater dimensions. Professor BART H. CHAMBERLIN, who is perhaps the highest authority on things Japanese, states that there is one species of crab in Japan so gigantic that human beings have been killed and devoured by it. The legs of this crab are over four feet in length, and there is a specimen in the museum at Tokio the body of which measures over six feet in diameter.

## The Memphis Moses.

For the shame and betterment of all those Democratic niggards and gripes who refuse to put a dollar on "Shall the People Rule" we cite the radiant example of the *Commercial Appeal* of Memphis. Its commercial appeals to the Bryanian brotherhood have touched the heart and the pocket. Fame with all its trumpets blows the name of the givers. How can more glory be had for a base and common "plunk"? And no mere mention, no grudging line, mind you. You can write serious and beautiful letters about the situation and the Peerless, and the Memphis sheet will spread your edifying sentiments upon the record. A dollar and a letter: thus is patriotism grafted upon the pride of authorship.

Decrepit age and vigorous manhood and helpless infancy are coming into the pot, as they say in Memphis. A young gentleman with a charming pastoral premonition, BOAS GIBSON, sends his dollar from Hoxie, Arkansas. "I am 14 years old," he writes, but in his juvenile boom BRYAN throbs and burns. He seems very young to have a bank account, yet he encloses "my check on our bank for the success of BRYAN and KEAN." BOAS is the Hoxie agent of the Memphis collector. "I guess you will hear from papa soon," he adds. So another dollar and letter may be expected from Hoxie. A veterinary surgeon in Pine Bluff contributes about half a column of letter with his dollar. "Hurrah for BRYAN, Democracy, the common folks and the *Commercial Appeal*," cries another dollarite. The rush to subscribe is unparalleled. Forty-one dollars were taken in one day this week!

Yet broad as the stream of beneficence is, the Memphis Moses, so to speak, the smiter of the Democratic rock, is going to make the channel deeper. "The alarm clocks of the Democracy are ringing." Will the people wake and fork over? Hear ye! hear ye! Fifty dollars in gold to the person who gets the most B. & K. subscriptions in Memphis; ditto to ditto in Mississippi, Alabama, Arkansas and Tennessee outside of Memphis. Step up and get the prize. An unrivaled opportunity to do good to yourself and help the sacred cause.

As we read of this combination of business with pleasure, and learn further that the *Commercial Appeal* is not "raising the money"—the prize money—to "exalt itself," we seem to see a deeper glow of shame blushing on the fiery plume of the Hon. ED CARMACK, sometime editor of that paper. Shame to recollect what things he has said about Mr. BRYAN, for whose relief Mr. CARMACK's successors are striving so manfully to increase their circulation.

## Minnesota.

The Hon. JOHN A. JOHNSON has been renominated for Governor of Minnesota by a hysterical convention apparently composed of frugal and far seeing Democratic officials who wanted to retain their jobs. The Governor himself had emphatically declined the distinction. He has already served two terms and it is quite possible he understood that while the Scandinavian voters may have elected him Governor through blood and affection born of common blood and racial attachments they could hardly be counted on to imperil the national ticket for the sake of that highly honorable emotion. At any rate it is notorious that he rejected the intended compliment and every indication points to the surmise that he was in earnest. Evidently he much preferred the independent rôle of campaigner to that of an anxious aspirant hampered by personal interests and immersed in unwelcome responsibilities.

It is not to be expected that Mr. JOHNSON's new candidacy will exert the smallest influence upon the national contest. The chances all are that Minnesota will go Republican by a larger majority than ever.

When Mr. TAFT returns from his fishing trip and settles down to front porch work in Cincinnati for the rest of the campaign it is to be hoped that he will have up his mind to adopt a number of reforms. Golf, for example, has been denounced by his antagonists as a game which lends itself to combinations and is therefore tainted by at least the appearance of an affinity to trusts, and leading cottons partakes of a frivolity which must be painful to all serious men. He has been attacked also on the score of his religious beliefs; but that proved a sort of boomerang, since it involved a confession of weakness on the part of the attackers. There seems no doubt, however, that golf and the leading of grand marshes and cottages will not do as all for a man who has been nominated to lead a great party in the national contest. If he could manage to lock a little bit ennobled, as if by long nights of pondering over the state of the country, and could suppress that infectious laugh which so jars upon the truly consecrated it might be well for him, but he certainly must not out the games and the dancing. We do not suggest the importance of an oily and avicious expression, for he could hardly succeed in that, and even then would rate but as a miserable second to his competitor. We stipulate only that he avoid everything that seems careless and jocular and prosperous and smooth his face out into a certificate of patriotic gloom. That ought to put him in the running.

## The Foamers.

The Venus of Milo explained. "I tried to stretch back across the sea," she said. Thus it was seen that peace hath her dangers.

## CHEMUNG AND J. SLOAT FASSETT.

ELMIRA, Aug. 20.—The other day the Hon. J. Sloat Fassett journeyed to Oyster Bay to carry the momentous tidings that Hughes sentiment was non-existent in New York State. It is fairly illuminating, therefore, to listen to the views of the fellow citizens of the Hon. J. Sloat upon this same subject. The first resident of Elmira to whom I appealed, a man who is not in politics but has served as an admirable informant in other campaigns, had this to say:

"If Mr. Fassett would spend a little less time in Washington and Bass Road and a little more in Elmira he would find that the overwhelming sentiment of his own county is for Governor Hughes."

The second man interrogated was a Republican, a follower of Fassett, who has held high office as such. He volunteered this idea:

"Just about 90 per cent. of the Republicans of Chemung county would be satisfied with Governor Hughes, a good many of them want him strongly; in fact about the only fellows that I have heard against Hughes are a few thoroughbred sports."

"How do you explain Mr. Fassett's Oyster Bay announcement, then?" I asked in surprise.

"Well, I guess there is a little bit of personal feeling in Sloat's position and point of view."

The third witness has held high office because of Mr. Fassett's favor and lost the same office because Mr. Fassett's favor has lost some of its local potency. He said:

"It would be suicidal, simply suicidal, for the Republicans to turn down Hughes."

All three of the foregoing opinions came from the Fassett side of the fence. Here is the view of a man who has for years held the place of county machine, but is now opposed to Fassett:

"At least 90 per cent. of the Republicans of Chemung county are for Governor Hughes; the bulk of them want him strongly. I tell you that it will be a sorry day for the Republican ticket, State and national, as well in this State and in this county in particular, if Fassett and Barnes and the rest of these fellows turn him down."

Even more significant was the utterance of yet another living Republican who has held many high offices:

"I shall vote a straight Democratic ticket this fall for the first time in my whole life. I shall do it because I believe that it is the only way to purify the Republican party and get rid of the thieves that now control it. I'd hate to tell you how many other Republicans are in the same position."

"Oh, yes, we are all for Hughes, but there is no hope for him," said the Baron; and then he couldn't use the Governor; he won't do as they say, so they are going to beat him, either directly or indirectly."

"Sloat can't use him." All over the city there is the same explanation of the antipathy of the Hon. J. Sloat for the Governor. The foregoing opinions are representative; they were not specially selected or colored; they were in the main matters of chance meeting. They should be taken as the healthy utterance of a number of Republicans who are against the Governor—almost without exception, however, the organization Republicans, the sporting element or a few readers of Mr. Fassett's local organ, the *Elmira Advertiser*.

But sentiment for Hughes and sentiment against Hughes, and the former vastly predominates, are as blank cartridges to dynamite when compared with the anti-Fassett sentiment of the same kind. I am inclined to think that the Governor should be named because of his own merit, but they are gentle and soft spoken beside the roar of the men who are for Hughes because Fassett is against him. Since the two elements have united, they now form the vast majority of the Republicans of Chemung, with whose aid Chemung has been going Democratic on the Fassett issue for a number of years.

"We are going to give our peerless leader, 1,000 majority—that is for the Democratic ticket," was one Republican answer. The hatred of Hughes among the Fassett people is as burned incense to brimstone beside the hatred of Fassett by the anti-Fassett people.

The politics of Erie or of Monroe are mere exercises of a freshman debating club compared with the Donnybrook Fair of Chemung. Any student of politics who desires to understand the feeling of the people of Chemung, let him go to the fair of the anti-Fassett people. Here it sounds like the East Side when Jerome was on the crusade. Incidentally the Hon. Sloat is filling the C. Francis Murphy rôle perfectly. They have a boss in Chemung—a real boss—and the boss issue has already obliterated every other landmark, not in the local fight, not in the State fight, but in the national campaign; and did not find a single man, Republican or Democrat, who did not assert that Mr. Bryan would carry Chemung on the Fassett issue.

Here, after all, in this talk of Democratic victory, talk heard from both sides of the line—in this familiar forecast that with the rejection of Hughes would go Mr. Taft's best chance of carrying New York—is something more significant, more important than any information to be found by any longer survey of the other purely local conditions. Here in Chemung, more strong than in some other places, yet different only in degree, is the conviction that New York State is doubtful—that Bryan has a chance—that the statesmen like Fassett who are opposing Hughes are increasing the national doubt every day.

As for the expert testimony of the Hon. J. Sloat upon the Hughes question there is no verdict in Elmira:

"He knows better," said Fassett's enemies. His friends winked and said with less feeling:

"Just a little bit of personality in it, I guess." But on the merits of the Hughes question both sets of witnesses agreed.

Here, after all, the Republican disruption is the real thing in Chemung, the thing that burns like fever heat, burning hotter by the hour; Republicans attacking Republicans, the voters denouncing the party workers, the party workers opposing the voters—nothing but chaos, pulling and hauling, biting and backbiting on every side. Here, too, is the happiest Democratic audience that ever had free admittance to a Republican fair fight.

"Three months ago I thought Bryan was an impossibility; now I think he has an even chance, a chance which improves daily," said one of the most level headed and conservative of the Democratic observers. "There must come a moment when it will be impossible for our Republican brethren to get together again if they keep this pace up much longer."

Hughes has earnest admirers and strong friends in Elmira; he has some opponents, much less in number and in influence, outside of machine politics. In the rural districts the sentiment in favor of the Governor is said to be unanimous, as it proved to be in Genesee in addition there are the anti-boss men, the anti-Fassett men, who will vote no Republican ticket that Mr. Fassett has not been rebuked in. Some of the Hughes men and about all these men have frankly announced that they mean to put their knives where they will do the most

damage, where the object lesson will be most apparent to the Republican party, national as well as State—and Taft is their target. The plan fact is that an Iowa Republican could live in Elmira and never be homesick; the Wisconsin progressive would hardly miss Battle Bob, the carnage is so gloriously much longer.

Yet humorous as are many phases of this local situation—and it is by no means purely local—in the end there must arise the question: Where is all this leading to? Instead of Republican activity for party advantage there is nothing but activity in destroying Republican prospects, nothing but party disintegration, bickering, snarling, fighting—the whole body of party workers on the other side elements busy opening new breaches in the party rampart. One side is threatening to cut the State ticket, the other to bolt the national ticket, and both sides are making public proclamation of a purpose that was once called treason.

In the end the observer after two weeks in the field begins to wonder if any Republican on State or national ticket will have a chance if this thing—this fight—about the party machine continues. Day by day Democratic confidence is growing, and coincidentally the Republican apprehension that Bryan may carry the State is expanding. Scores of Republicans have expressed their private opinion to THE SUN's correspondent in the last few days that New York was again doubtful—doubtful on the national ticket. Hughes or anti-Hughes, this fight has gone to the point now where it seems perfectly evident that Mr. Taft must either let the bill for broken china and that there is going to be broken china now, however the squabble comes out.

Because the anti-boss issue has been injected alongside of the Hughes issue, there is the growing conviction that nothing short of a clear out and decisive defeat for Barnes, Woodruff, Fassett and the rest of the bosses will leave the slightest chance for Republican victory in the national campaign. The rest of the bosses have made themselves the issue of the campaign to the utter exclusion not merely of Hughes but of Taft. One does not have to wander outside of little Elmira to feel this, but it may be found elsewhere quite as easily.

As for the Hon. J. Sloat and his Oyster Bay utterances it is necessary to be charitable to avoid the suggestion of any short or ugly words, even to omit any name where the name is not remembered almost as long as a certain coat that was once taken off with and consequences. The local view, moreover, at least among the Fassett following, is charitable. It is this:

"Not having been in Elmira for so long, of course you can't expect Sloat to know what the real sentiment here is. It is just possible that he may believe what he said."

How utterly inaccurate the Fassett interview was as a presentation of Chemung conditions, however, can be proved by half an hour spent in Elmira. Here are two predominant emotions, neither of which was described in the Fassett interview; the first is pro-Hughes and is widespread, the second is anti-Fassett and explosive. One may add that there has been perfect fusion of these emotions, and with this addition the true situation in Chemung is not hard to gather.

## Taft, Bryan or Isaak Walton.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: As a born Democrat, with the peculiar prejudices that attend my inheritance, I am inclined to think that I shall go fishing the early days of November.

The splendid equipment, intellectual and moral, of Judge Taft and his proved fitness to lead the nation, are questions which make him in many ways a most agreeable alternative for the candidate of my party; but how am I to reconcile my conscience to aiding in the perpetration of such doctrines as constitute the "policy" of the present Administration, to which he seems to be committed?

On the other hand, to vote for Mr. Bryan will be to give approval to pronouncements that I find repulsive. I am inclined to think that I shall go fishing the early days of November.

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## IN MARYLAND.

BALTIMORE, Aug. 20.—In Maryland political conditions are mixed, with the State leaning slightly to Taft. This is a great gain for Bryan over 1890 and 1900, when McKinley carried the State by 23,000 and 14,000 respectively. Since that time the Democrats have passed an effective ballot law, which renders ineffective a large percentage of the candidates arranged alphabetically on the ballot without party emblems, and the voter must pick out and mark without assistance the individual candidates. Moreover, in nine counties of the black belt in southern Maryland and on the Eastern Shore there is not even a party name to guide the voter. In consequence of this and of Bryan's increased strength in the country districts the State outside of Baltimore is a "standoff," thus wiping out a Republican majority of about 7,000 in 1900 in that territory.

In the city of Baltimore conditions are very much involved, with the indications in favor of Taft. In the silk stocking wards, where the society, club and leading business men live, there is as much Democratic defection as in 1900, but this is all confined to the Fourth Congressional district, now represented by a Democrat. The balance almost certainly Republican by from 2,000 to 2,500 majority.

On the other hand, in the Third district, generally very close, where none of the element lives, Bryan is much stronger than formerly and will receive the full Democratic vote. A heavy Democratic labor vote in this district which left the Democratic party and voted for McKinley in 1890 and 1900 now appears to be solid with Bryan, and he will get a small sprinkling of Republican votes with the indication that this district will be Democratic by from 1,000 to 2,000. The result in the city of Baltimore will therefore depend on the four city wards in the Fifth district, which while formerly Republican, with a heavy labor vote, certainly look Democratic this time, and the Fifteenth and Sixteenth wards in the Second district, which will give from 500 to 700 Republican majority, perhaps as much as 1,000. Bryan will have several hundred votes ahead of Taft, but here, as the Democratic Congressional candidate will be affected by factional differences and the interjection of the liquor question.

Maryland does not take kindly to independent movements, and the Independence League will be a negligible quantity. The Democratic leaders whose loyalty to their party was much questioned in 1890 and